AIR

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

Amembassy MOSCOW

23

DESP. NO.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON

November 2, 1959

ACTION

DEPT.

INFO

DEPT

RECDS

OTHER

CLASSIFY

Subject: Lee Harvey Oswald

Ref: Embtel 1032, October 31, 1959

On October 31, 1959 Lee Harvey Oswald, [illegible] appeared at this Embassy and stated he desired to renounce his American citizenship. Oswald stated that he wished to renounce his American citizenship [illegible] applied to become a citizen of the Soviet Union. He presented [illegible] his passport and the following signed, undated, handwritten statement, the original of which is retained by the Embassy (misspellings are as in original):

"I Lee Harvey Oswald do hereby request that my present citizenship in the United States be revoked.

"I have entered the Soviet Union for the express purpose of applying for citizenship in the Soviet Union, through the means of naturalization.

"My request for [illegible] is now pending before the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

"I take these steps for political reasons. My request for the revoking of my American citizenship is made only after the longest and most serious considerations.

"I assure that my allegiance is to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

s/ Lee H. Oswald

Oswald is the nearest relative listed on [illegible] dated September 10, 1959 retained in the Embassy). The passport stated that he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October [illegible], 1939 and gave his occupation as "shipping export agent". Oswald gave his last address in the United States as [illegible] at his mother's 1936 Collinwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas. A telegram subsequently received at the Embassy for him indicated that [illegible] Robert E. Oswald, residing at 815 Evermore, Fort Worth, Texas. [illegible] discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on September [illegible] with a general discharge under honorable conditions. Oswald suddenly applied for his passport [illegible] Consular Officer in Helsinki. He stated that he had arrived [illegible] San Francisco and [illegible] service. He stated that he had [illegible] Japan [illegible] about [illegible] years before his discharge [illegible] from the United States through Helsinki. He states that he first [illegible] Helsinki on October [illegible]

Enclosure: Signed statement.

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(Classification)

Ltr. Ind. No.
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From Moscow

that he applied for Soviet citizenship by letter to the Supreme Soviet on October 16 in Moscow. He stated that he did not mention his intent to remain in the Soviet Union to the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki at the time of his visa application.

Throughout the interview Oswald's manner was aggressive, arrogant, and uncooperative. He appeared to be competent. He insisted that he did not wish to waste time in discussion or answering questions concerning his "personal" affairs beyond what was directly related to divesting himself of his American citizenship. He was contemptuous of any efforts by the interviewing officer in his interest, made clear that he wanted no advice from the Embassy. He stated that he knew the provisions of U. S. law on loss of citizenship and declined to have them reviewed by the interviewing officer. In short he displayed all the airs of a new sophomore participant.

Oswald gave as the "principal reason" for his decision that "I am a marxist", but declined any further elaboration of his motives. However, other remarks bearing on his attitude were made during the interview. At one point he alluded to hardships endured by his mother as a "worker" and stated that he did not intend to have this happen to him. He also referred to himself several times as a "worker", but admitted that he had never held a civilian job, having entered the Marine Corps directly from junior year of high school. (He claimed to have completed high school while in service.) He stated that his service in Okinawa and elsewhere "gave me a chance to observe American imperialism." At another point he reacted sensitively when asked, in connection with his rank in the Marine Corps, whether he felt he should have had a higher grade.

Oswald categorically refused to discuss his family beyond stating that he was not married and that he had a mother in Texas. He had obliterated the address written on the inside cover of his passport and steadfastly refused to give any last home address until it was elicited by the "threat" that nothing could be done about his request to renounce his citizenship without this information. After giving the address noted above, he then confirmed that it was his mother's address. He would not say whether he had informed his mother and rebuffed any suggestion of consultation for her.

Oswald offered the information that he had been a radar operator in the Marine Corps and that he had voluntarily stated to unnamed Soviet officials that as a Soviet citizen he would make known to them such information concerning the Marine Corps and his specialty as he possessed. He intimated that he might know something of special interest.

Oswald is presently residing in non-tourist status at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow awaiting the Soviet response to his application for citizenship. His Soviet visa and militia registration expired on October 26, 1959, and have not been renewed. He is presently in a technically illegal residence status with the tacit consent of the [illegible]

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(Classification)

Embassy MOSCOW

Desp. No. 234

From MOSCOW

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DESP. NO.

November 2, 1959

DATE

Applied for Soviet citizenship ~~Dulles~~ the Embassy proposes to delay action on Denisov's request to execute an oath of renunciation to the extent dictated by developments and subject to the Department's advice.

Edward L. Freers

Edward L. Freers

Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim

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